Trust. Further action will be taken immediately after finalising the BOT tenders.

Amendment in Motor Vehicle Act

580. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify Motor Vehicle Act and change the provisions of issuing licenses in view of incidences of hijacking of IC 814 Indian Airlines Aircraft; and

(b) whether Government confirm the correctness of the residential address of the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under rule 4 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, provisions have been made for providing evidences in the form of authentic documents such as ration card, passport etc. satisfying the correctness of the address of the applicants of driving licenses. Therefore, no separate confirmation of the correctness of the address is done by the licensing authorities.

Failure to Exploit Tourist Potential on dawn of New Millennium

581. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India missed out on the tourist opportunity of the millennium by failing to exploit the first dawn sunrise in the Andaman and Nicobar Island to attract foreign tourist;

(b) if so, the amount spent on hiring ships etc. and making arrangements for the visit to Katchal Islands for this purpose; and

(c) whether the tourism officials could not make advance propaganda for the occasion?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The Govt.

opened the Katchal Island, a restricted area in Andaman and Nicobar Island only for a period of 6 days from 29th Dec, 1999 to 3rd January, 2000 for the visitors to give them an opportunity to view the first sunrise of the New Millennium.

(b) The Government of India did not hire any ship, but has spent an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs for making various arrangements for the event.

(c) Advertisements were released in newspapers and a brochure was also brought out.

Development of Katchal Island

582. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Katchal Island was developed as Tourist destination to welcome the new millennium Sunrise;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) the earnings made from tourists; and

(d) the reasons for failure to attract substantial number of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Katchal Island is a restricted area and also is considered ecologically fragile. To get publicity advantage of the Millennium Sunrise, arrangements for regulated visitors for 6 days from 29.12.99 to 3.1.2000 were made. An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs has been spent on various logistical arrangements. It was a publicity initiative and because of the limitations explained, the question of earnings from tourists did not arise.

Development of Tourism in Assam

583. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and utilised by Government for development of tourism in Assam during the last three years;